



September 14

12:00 - 12:15 **Welcome**

12:15 - 1:45 **National Policy Update**

Laura Kaloi and Cyrus Huncharek

Amidst the ongoing pandemic that has affected students with disabilities and their families, Congress has provided states with billions in federal aid for K-12 schools and the Biden Administration has laid out bold plans for equity in education that include and impact students with disabilities. Presenters in this session will educate and engage participants in a discussion about the priorities of the Administration, activities of the 117th Congress, and ways the disability advocacy community is interacting with key players and influencing the current agenda.

1:45 - 2:15 **Break**

2:15 - 3:30 **The Future of Work - In-Office, Remote, or Hybrid**

Joyce Chastain and Laura Weber

COVID continues to impact our workplaces. With rapidly changing mandates and guidance, what is an organization to do? This interactive session will answer participants' questions and explore the potential risks and rewards related to organizational policies around COVID. This workshop will provide the participants with real world scenarios. As a group, we will walk through the key questions: 1) is it legal; 2) is it best practice; and 3) is it appropriate? The activity is designed to have participants think critically and apply the information that they learned.

Understanding The Rainbow Of Diversity: A Conversation About LGBTQ+ Community Engagement

Joe LaBelle and Rene Averitt-Sanzone

This diverse panel will discuss how to effectively reach out to the LGBTQ+ community. We will provide strategies for identifying implicit bias in language used in our materials and by staff at Parent Centers and schools, with easy-to-implement tips to be more inclusive. We will discuss difficult subjects, such as harassment in schools and professional environments. Through role-playing exercises and small group discussions, participants will gain a better understanding of this reality.

Implementing Youth Work Through Action Planning

Karen Harrison and Joey Ellis

This interactive session will assist Parent Center Directors staff to structure their youth work through the lens of how to meet the intended outcomes defined in their logic model. Participants will be provided a tool to use to examine their deliverables, audiences, intended impact, service delivery styles, and partnerships. We will engage in conversation about the benefits of keeping youth work in-house vs. contracting out for youth service delivery and the all-important topic of capturing and evaluating your work for reporting purposes.

Journey Toolkit: The Power of Organization

Sally Baker and Suzanne Wingard

This organizational tool facilitates communication between parents and professionals to achieve the best possible health and educational outcomes for children with special needs or disabilities. Professionals attending this workshop will be better prepared to assist the families they serve with preparing and organizing the paperwork and extensive information that comes with having a child with special healthcare needs.

3:30 – 4:30

Exhibit Hall



September 15

12:00 - 1:15 **Leveraging Your Financial Story, Post Pandemic**
Glenda Hicks

The pandemic disrupted how nonprofits meet their mission. Leaders learned many lessons and made numerous, expedient changes to address unfathomable consequences. McKinsey & Company put forth five stages as an answer to "What is the path to the next normal?"- Resolve, Resilience, Return, Re-imagination, and Reform. Participants will share how they responded to the pandemic, and using a financial sustainability lens, will create a "financial story" to share with funders, staff, and board members to support their mission-critical work.

Diving into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Roundtable

Karen Harrison and Laura Weber

This session will engage Parent Center staff in discussions about the range of possibilities and options for beginning DEI work in your Parent Center. Whether you are dipping your toe in to test the waters, wearing your floaties and wading a little deeper, or jumping off the high dive, getting into the DEI waters is essential for all Parent Centers. ECAC and STEP will share how they started their DEI work and invite participants to "show and tell" their DEI experiences. This session is based on the theory of experiential learning, which is an engaged learning process where individuals "learn by doing" and by reflecting on the experience. We have so much to learn from each other. Join us as we embrace the wisdom of John Pierpont "J.P." Morgan -- "The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are."

Positive Solutions: Guiding Families of Young Children Who Have Challenging Behavior

Lise Fox and Meghan von der Embse

Learn about the Positive Solutions for Families training series and how parent leaders can assist families of young children with challenging behavior. The seven-session workshop was developed by the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations. The series is designed to be provided by parent leaders and professionals. All materials to implement the series are provided: family handbook; facilitator's guide; PowerPoint slides; training scripts; family routine guide; and 22 resources for families to use with their children.

CPIR: A Hub of Information and Connections for the Parent Center Network

Carolyn Hayer and Myriam Alizo

Discover CPIR! The CPIR is a central "Hub" of information created to assist the network of Parent Centers in providing effective services to families of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. CPIR supports the work by providing resources and platforms designed specifically for Parent Center professionals. Join us to learn about and experience the updated Resource Library, the CentersConnect collaboration and communication platform, and the e-Learning Hub for online asynchronous learning.

1:15 - 1:45 Break

1:45 - 3:00 **The Basics of Having a Great Board of Directors You Love to Work With**

Maria Daane, Executive Director, Parents Helping Parents

Boards of Directors have enormous governance responsibilities for our PTIs. This presentation explores the "magic sauce" that leads to a board that fuels your agency's work and with whom you love working. This interactive discussion will weave in audience discussion and personal reflection of the five elements of a great board: Trust, Diversity, Bravery, Passion/Smarts, and Renewal. There will also be a brief overview of the contents of the Parent Center Board Toolkit.



Building Successful, Meaningful and Lasting Relationships with Native Communities

Priscilla Maynor

Tribal consultation provides an approach for organizations to establish trusting working partnerships with tribes - and ultimately build the necessary foundation for successful, meaningful and lasting relationships. In this interactive session, we will unpack some key dynamics concerning tribal engagement and tribal consultation, and provide leaders with new insights and strategies for developing and maintaining tribal relationships including promising practices for engaging tribes on behalf of Native youth and families. Activities will include facilitated reflection exercises and cooperative learning techniques to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing.

RAISE Youth Engagement Toolkit Series

Josie Badger

During this session the presenter will help attendees explore the new RAISE Center Youth Engagement Toolkit Series. Learn about how these toolkits can support your Parent Center's quest to better engage youth in the programs, services, and overall mission of your Parent Center. Also learn about how the RAISE Center will be engaging with youth to better inform the technical assistance they provide throughout the year.

Self-Care & Social Emotional Wellbeing During These Uncertain Times

Tina Norris

Managing a remote work and virtual learning environment while trying to maintain a normal home life balance has become overwhelming for many families and professionals. We can no longer look at self-care as a luxury but rather prioritize it as a necessity. You can manage the roller coaster of emotions that arise daily by making "you" a priority. You will be better equipped to handle stress, avoid burnout, and remain centered.

3:00 - 3:30

Break

3:30 - 4:45

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work if Good Communication is Present

Glenda Hicks and Karen Harrison

Good communication begins with a framework of policies, procedures, and expectations that create a baseline for performance and provide consequences for noncompliance. After the framework, success depends on individuals receiving training, gaining an understanding, and taking ownership of their behaviors to create a collaborative working environment. Come discover tools and strategies to engage board members and staff in the organization's work that makes them feel empowered, supported, and valued with improved morale, positive relationships and increased overall engagement.

Are We Listening? YEP!

Aimee Combs, Billy Pickens, Nicholas Batley

ECAC recognizes the power and value of the voice and ideas of young people. Serving in a role where youth can actively use their self-advocacy skills to make decisions and indicate their preferences, interests and ideas is critical as they prepare for the transition to adulthood. Join us to learn more about our Youth Advisory Team (YAT) and their role in designing projects, programs, and resources created by youth with disabilities, for youth with disabilities.



Those Elusive Part C Families; How to Find and Serve Them

Nora Thompson

How many times have we all heard "I wish I would have known about your center before!" Here is an opportunity to reach families more effectively from the beginnings of their journeys. But we can't serve them if they don't know about us. Join us for a lively discussion about breaking down the barriers to getting referrals and making sure we have what young families really need!

Three Circles and the FAIR Test: Resources for Parents and Professionals Making Decisions about Evidence-based Practices

Angela McGuire and Amy Peterson

This session presents two new resources to guide professionals and families through a process for evidence-based decision-making to support students with disabilities. One resource highlights the importance of bringing together the best available research evidence, family wisdom and values, and practitioner wisdom and values in order to make thoughtful decisions. Its companion resource provides guiding questions to help teams select the best interventions for a student or group of students, based on feasibility, acceptability, potential impact and relevance. Presenters will introduce the resources, discuss their development and potential uses, and then invite discussion and questions from the session participants.

September 16

12:00 - 1:15 **Hiring – Possibly the Most Important Thing You Do**

Courtney Salzer

For almost any organization, it's the employees who make it what it is – doing the actual work and shaping the culture. That's why hiring is the most important thing organizations do, and it pays to get it right. Effective hiring systems at your Parent Center should focus on finding quality candidates, making sure candidates and interviewers have a positive interview experience, making the hiring process efficient, and ensuring fair outcomes. This session will be filled with helpful tips and tools and opportunities to share your experiences and practice your new skills.

Military Resources and Action Items

Keri Peko

PEATC recognizes the importance of PTIs and CPRCs in supporting our nation's service members. With frequent moves, long deployments, and dangerous working conditions, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coasties who have children with disabilities face additional challenging variables. This presentation will ensure PTI and CPRC staff have the tools and information needed to provide individualized support, meaningful trainings, and high-quality materials to this traditionally underserved population.

Key Roles for Children's Literacy Success: Facilitating Parent/Caregiver Capacity-building

Sarah Sayko

Parents and caregivers play a critical role in supporting children's literacy success, through four key actions: Learn, Advocate, Partner, and Support. Learn about these actions, the free evidence-based resources from the National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) aligned to them, and ways Parent Center staff can disseminate and facilitate families' use of these resources.

Supporting Remote Staff using Technology

Joe LaBelle, Suzanne Bowers, & Mitzi Proffitt – Panel discussion facilitated by Debi Tucker

We have all seen the need of technology during the pandemic to support remote staff, however many Parent Centers have been using technology to support their remote staff for many years now. Join our



panel to hear from directors who took the leap during COVID for a perspective of lessons learned and from others who have been working at refining systems they have had in place for many years. No matter where you are, or the size of your organization, technology can and will play a critical role in your organization in this ever-changing landscape of nonprofit development and management.

1:15 - 1:45 Break

1:45 - 3:00 **Risk Management: Are You Prepared for Major Transitions**

Glenda Hicks and Ellen McCarty

Major transitions can have devastating impacts on organizations when proper planning and preparedness are not present. Consequences include strained relationships, eroded trust, interrupted service delivery interrupted, lost confidence, and a tarnished reputation. Major transitions can include funding loss, program additions or eliminations, staff turnover, and leadership turnover. Join us as we share real-life horror stories from the trenches, from presenters who have "lived to talk about it" and have some lessons to share.

What's in Your Toolbox? Making Practice Improvement Practical for Families!

Allison McKinney Jones and Betsy Ayankoya, ECTA Center, FPG Child Development Institute

In this session, ECTA Center staff and aRPy Ambassadors will share the array of Practice Improvement Tools that have been developed to support positive child and family outcomes. The presenters in this session will share the variety of tools, where to find them, how to use them for families and give participants an opportunity to practice with them. The session will include activities, vignettes, and tip sheets to give participants hands-on experience with the tools and suggestions for how they can use them on an everyday basis.

The Power of Families at the Table Using Data to Advance Equity

Michelle Lewis and Thomas McGhee

Join us for a session on engaging and empowering families and community members as leaders in equity-driven data conversations. Addressing inequities requires an understanding of the root causes of outcome disparities within our communities; data can help identify and reduce those inequities. Additionally it's critical to look at data with families and communities and listen to lived experiences in order to create a "data story".

Least Restrictive Environment and Supported Decision-Making: A "Mash Up" That Promotes a More Self-Determined Life

Karen Harrison and Ned Andrew Solomon

This session explores how empowering individuals to choose contributes to living a less-restricted life. Just like there's a continuum of supported decision-making strategies, a continuum exists in how much we restrict a person's choices as well as their rights. Tools will be shared that families and other individuals supporting persons with disabilities can use to ensure that the people they love are better prepared to speak up and advocate for the life they want.

3:00 - 3:30 Break

3:30 - 4:45 **Handbooks, Diversity, & Pandemics...So Much To Learn And So Little Time To Do It!**

William T. Krizner

Join Bill Krizner as he considers the top 10 handbook changes that should be considered to promote collaborative work teams, support staff, and remain compliant with today's laws. This interactive session will particularly consider issues associated with LGBTQ candidates and employees; address remote work, workplace safety, and other pandemic related matters; and explore a host of other interesting and timely topics that should be considered and addressed this year.



Virtual Support for Parents and Caregivers from Home to Anywhere

Lisa Mathey

In this session, we will offer a framework for launching and running virtual peer support group meetings through the use of technology to create a supportive environment for parents and caregivers of children and youth with special needs. We will review strategies to facilitate engaging and positive discussions to address the concerns and frustrations of families and facilitate their empowerment. We will share specific resources to connect parents and caregivers to their community for additional support.

Looking into Our Crystal Ball: How Will Parents Want Us to Serve Them in The Post-COVID World?

Eliana Tardio, Ginger Kwan, Maria Daane

We can't go back to 2019. The world has changed, and families have changed. Over the last 18 months, you've had to make radical changes. Join other Parent Center leaders in a moderated discussion with significant audience participation as we brainstorm on what the future may hold post-pandemic and what we need to do to meet parents' needs. The focus of this training is on changes to programming and will not address return to work issues.

Hosting Low Budget Yet Engaging Virtual Conferences

Terri Leyton

If the past year has taught the Parent Center Network anything, it's that we can utilize technology to continue our outreach in a virtual environment even though it feels a little different. Like in-person conferences, virtual conference costs can add up, especially if you're using a hosting platform. This breakout session will show you how to host a low budget and engaging virtual conference using just a virtual meeting platform, such as Zoom and Google Suite. We will also discuss how to incorporate an Exhibit Hall and Poster Session into your virtual conference.

September 17

12:00 – 2:00 OSEP and Regional Updates

Kristen Rhoads

Creating a Calm, Happy and Healthy Nonprofit Hybrid Workplace Post Pandemic

Meico Marquette Whitlock and Beth Kanter

You finally got the hang of working in your pajamas while establishing a productive work routine. But now it's time to get dressed and go back to the physical workplace. But with COVID still top of mind, it likely won't be everyone in-person, in the office, all at once side-by-side. This interactive session will walk you through tips and strategies for creating a thriving, happy, and healthy post-pandemic hybrid workplace culture.